

HUNTING-TRAPPING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 01-21-19

Issued at Juneau, Alaska
November 22, 2019

Effective Date: November 22, 2019

Expiration Date: 30 June 2020
(unless superseded by a subsequent
emergency order).

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the resident and nonresident moose hunting seasons in the portion of Game Management Unit 5A Nunatak Bench. This order takes effect at 11:59 pm, Friday, November 22, 2019.

REGULATORY TEXT:

Therefore, the provisions of 5 AAC 85.045, HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in Unit 5(A):

Unit and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 5(A), south of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, north and east of Russel and Nunatak Fiords and the East Nunatak Glacier to the U.S./Canada border (Nunatak Bench) One moose by registration permit only	Nov 15 – Nov 22	Nov 15 – Nov 22

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All other moose hunting regulations in the remainder of Unit 5A are not affected by this emergency order.

Douglas Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:
Roy Churchwell
Area Manager



JUSTIFICATION:

The Nunatak Bench (Unit 5A) hunt area is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

Due to poor survey conditions, we have been unable to survey the Nunatak Bench since 2015 when a total of 14 moose (3 bulls, 2 cows, 3 calves, and 6 unknown sex) were observed. The Nunatak Bench management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose; however, the Department does not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose. Because we have not observed a count of at least 25 moose we are not opening this hunt at this time.

This Emergency Order (01-21-19) closes the state moose hunting season in this area on Friday, November 22, 2019 @ 11:59 pm.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of this emergency order is to the attached listing. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game offices in Juneau, Douglas, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Sitka, Yakutat, Haines, Anchorage, Nome and Fairbanks.

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